

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02706 241449Z

51

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-01 SY-04 NIC-01

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 PC-01 SCCT-01 /093 W

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R 240948Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8932

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UV, ML

SUBJECT: BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA

1. A WAVE OF XENOPHOBIA, OBVIOUSLY ENCOURAGED BY GOUV, IS SWEEPING THROUGH UPPER VOLTA, A LAND WHICH UNTIL NOW HAD A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR TOLERANCE AND FRIENDLINESS TOWARDS FOREIGNERS. MAIN TARGETS ARE MALIANS AND FRENCH, BUT OTHERS ARE ALSO AFFECTED INDIRECTLY.

2. SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY BAD IN BOBO-DIOULASSO WHERE MALIANS CONTROL MOST OF TRADITIONAL TRADE. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT SOME TWO HUNDRED PERSONS WERE WOUNDED IN STREET FIGHTS AND RIOTING IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT AT LEAST THREE MALIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN BOBO.

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3. IN OUAGADOUGOU, ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE

ON DECEMBER 22 WITH ANTI-MALIAN AND ANTI-FRENCH SLOGANS. TWO GERMAN NATIONALS WHO WERE TAKING PICTURES WERE APPREHENDED BY DEMONSTRATORS BUT WERE RELEASED WHEN THEY SHOWED PROOF OF THEIR NATIONALITY. APPARENTLY AN AMERICAN TOURIST, WHOM WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY, WAS ALSO TAKING PICTURES AND WAS STONED UNTIL DEMONSTRATORS LEARNED THAT HE WAS AN AMERICAN.

4. FRENCH COMMUNITY IS UNDERSTANDABLY GETTING JITTERY BUT SO FAR WE HAVE NO REPORT THAT FRENCH NATIONALS HAVE BEEN HARMED. FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS LIVID WHEN GOUV SENT A DETACHMENT OF TEN SOLDIERS TO PROTECT HIM AND HE INSISTED THAT THEY BE REMOVED. SOVIET EMBASSY IS GETTING SOME OF THE FLACK BECAUSE MALIAN TANKS OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE ARE NOW REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN POSITIONS IN THE DISPUTED AREA.
GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BORDER INCIDENTS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OUAGAD02706
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740374-0146
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741212/aaaaajzs.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA
TAGS: PBOR, UV, ML
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005